

EXCISE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: September 16, 1958

SUBJECT:

Visit to Crown Prince Faisal

PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. Claude Forkner, New York Hospital
Mr. Lampton Berry, NEA
Mr. David D. Newsom, NE

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(Dr. Forkner called at the Department following his return from a trip to the Middle East primarily in connection with his position as President of the Iran Foundation. During this trip he visited Crown Prince Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Dr. Forkner had been the principal surgeon in the series of operations performed on Crown Prince Faisal in 1957.)

Mr. Berry expressed appreciation to Dr. Forkner for calling at the Department and indicated the Department's interest in the present state of health of Crown Prince Faisal. Dr. Forkner stated that Crown Prince Faisal's condition was substantially improved and he believed, on the basis of his recent visit, that the Crown Prince was now on the road to good health and was physically capable of carrying out his responsibilities in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Forkner explained that the Crown Prince had not had time for sufficient convalescence from his surgery and had moreover during the period of his recovery been worried about his brother, the King, and about events generally in Saudi Arabia. He had had considerable trouble with his digestion but Dr. Forkner, before his recent visit, had advised a change of treatment which appeared to improve the situation. The Crown Prince, according to Dr. Forkner, was both eating and sleeping well.

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Commenting on his visit to Egypt Dr. Forkner said that he heard constant criticism of the United States for its failure to provide wheat and medicine to Egypt after the Suez crisis. Dr. Forkner suggested that the United States should invite President Nasser for a visit and that this would help overcome certain of the difficulties which the United States faced in the Arab world. Dr. Forkner stressed in connection both with his visit to Egypt and his visit to Iran the importance of the work of private foundations.

Mr. Berry explained to Dr. Forkner certain of the problems which the United States had faced in the Middle East in recent days. He said that the Department was well aware of the problem of supporting rulers who would not have popular support but that there seemed little alternative when such rulers seemed friendly to the United States as had been the case in Iraq and as was currently the case in Jordan. With respect to Egypt, the United States was seeking to normalize its relations with Egypt, had restarted the CARE Program in Egypt, and was making certain other gestures to which it hoped there would be similar friendly responses by the Egyptian Government. Mr. Berry explained the view that it was too early to consider the possibility of a visit to the United States by Nasser.

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